

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00825 080535Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 EUR-12
AID-05 EB-08 /076 W
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P R 080425Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2812
INFO CINCPAC
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB
MAC SCOTT AFB, ILL

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0825

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, WS
SUBJECT: WESTERN SAMOA: QUEEN'S CARS

REF: (A) CINCPAC (DTG 050309Z MAR 77) (NOTAL), (B) WELLINGTON
0265 (DTG 232250Z JAN 77) (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL A (WHICH IS VERBATIM REPRINT OF UPI ITEM CARRIED IN
"AMERICAN SAMOA NEWS BULLETINE" OF MARCH 3; COPY RECEIVED TODAY)
SHOULD SERVE AS ADEQUATE CONFIRMATION THAT ASI EIKENI IS
PRINCIPAL TROUBLEMAKER IN WHOLE SORRY EPISODE. ASSISTED BY
SOME QUESTIONABLE JOURNALISM, EIKENI SEEMS INTENT ON ESTABLISHING
HIS OWN VIRTUE, EVEN IF TO DO SO HE MUST BUILD ON FOUNDATION OF
LIES, DISTORTIONS, INNUENDOS AND BRUISED RELATIONS.

2. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT UPI STORY IS CONTINUATION
OF EIKENI-SOURCED ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED IN "SAMOA TIMES"
OF FEBRUARY 25. STORIES SEEM CALCULATED TO SOUR U.S./SAMOAN
RELATIONS AND INCLUDE: (A) ASSERTION THAT GOWS, IN ADDITION
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TO CANCELLING VISIT OF USCGC NORTHWIND TO APIA, "ALSO POSTPONED
INDEFINITELY THE PROPOSED TRIP BY A NAVAL ATTACHE FROM THE
UNITED STATES WHO WAS ALSO EXPECTED ABOUT THIS TIME"; (B) REPEAT
OF AMERICAN SAMOAN TELEVISION'S REPORT ON IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF
\$21,000 FOR AIRLIFT OF AUTOS; (C) REFERENCE TO RUMORS ALLEGEDLY
CURRENT IN AMERICAN SAMOA THAT GOWS HAD THREATENED TO GO TO
SOVIETS OF USG WOULD NOT ARRANGE AIRLIFT OF VEHICLES. "SAMOA

TIMES" ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH FOLLOWING COMMENT ATTRIBUTED TO EIKENI: QUOTE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WITH A HIGH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AND THERE WAS NO REASON FOR ANY DOUBT OF THIS MAN'S SINCERITY. HE HAD GIVEN HIS WORD ON BEHALF OF HIS COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT AND HE EXPECTED THE OFFICIAL'S WORD TO BE AS GOOD. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WAS FOUND NOT TO BE THE CASE. WHEN WORD CAME ABOUT THE FRIEGHT COST GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY SENT AN OFFICER WITH THE MONEY. FOR THIS REASON GOVERNMENT IS TAKING NO MORE CHANCES TO HAVE THE COUNTRY'S GOOD NAME HELD UP IN RIDICULE AS WAS DONE BY AMERICAN SAMOAN TELEVISION AND A REPORT BY THE HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN THAT SAMOA WAS PLAYING THE FIELD MATCHING THE RUSSIANS AGAINST THE WEST. INNER QUOTE IF WE WANT TO GO TO THE RUSSIANS WE WOULD DO SO. WE ARE A SMALL COUNTRY BUT WE WOULD NOT NEED ANYBODY'S PERMISSION TO DO WHAT WE WANT TO DO. AND WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT NAIVE ENOUGH TO THINK WE CAN PLAY OFF THE SUPER-POWERS AGAINST ONE ANOTHER WITHOUT THEIR KNOWING, END INNER QUOTE THE MINISTER SAID. END QUOTE.

3. SEPARATE ARTICLE IN SAME ISSUE, ATTRIBUTED TO "VERY SENIOR" GOWS OFFICIAL (READ EIKENI) SAYS THAT GOWS "DOES NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE VERY MUCH" FROM USG AS RESULT OF AID MISSION VISIT. AMOUNT EXPECTED WILL BE "PEANUTS" AND THE USG "IS BECOMING A GIVER OF PEANUTS JUST LIKE THEIR PRESIDENT" THE SOURCE SAID.

4. ON MARCH 3, AS INSTRUCTED BY PARA THREE OF STATE'S 039123 (NOTAL), I WROTE PRIME MINISTER EFI EXTENDING PERSONAL APOLOGIES FOR UNFORTUNATE AND UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICITY GIVEN TRANSPORTATION OF TWO AUTOS FOR ROYAL TOUR. I TOOK THE CONFIDENTIAL

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OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT TO P.M. EFI THAT UNHELPFUL, UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY OCCURS IN WESTERN SAMOA MEDIA AS WELL. I CITED ARTICLE ON USG BEING GIVER OF "PEANUTS" AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLE AND SUGGESTED THAT SUCH ARTICLES WERE "SURPRISING AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD RELATIONS, BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT, WHICH BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS SEEK". (FYI: ON MARCH 4 HIGH COMMISSION OF WESTERN SAMOA SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO EMBASSY -- RECEIVED MARCH 7 -- ENCLOSING PRESS RELEASE BY PRIME MINISTER EFI. RELEASE INTER ALIA SAYS EFI QUOTE COMMENTING ON A REPORT IN THE "SAMOA TIMES" ABOUT OFFERS OF UNITED STATES AID BEING "PEANUTS", SAID THAT REPORT WAS "MOST UNFORTUNATE". THE UNITED STATES TEAM WAS WELCOMED TO WESTERN SAMOA BY THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID. IT WAS KNOWN BEFORE THEY CAME THAT PROJECT AID WOULD ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES...THE UNITED STATES IS A VERY BIG NEIGHBOR. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM STARTS OUT ON THE RIGHT FOOT. END QUOTE. END FYI.)

5. IN MY LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, I ALSO OBSERVED THAT:

(A) THE TWO ISSUES OF AUTOMOBILES AND NAVIGATIONAL AID INSTALLATIONS WERE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT; (B) THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY SUGGESTION BUT THAT NAVAID INSTALLATION WOULD BE FREELY AND HAPPILY GIVEN; (C) IT WOULD BE MANY MONTHS BEFORE COAST GUARD WOULD AGAIN BE IN AREA WITH HELICOPTER CAPABILITIES; (D) ENTIRE REGRETTABLE EPISODE COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF EIKENI HAD BEGUN ACQUISITION OF VEHICLES IN TIMELY FASHION.

6. FINALLY, I PROVIDED PRIME MINISTER COPY OF MUCH STRONGER LETTER I SENT ON SAME DATE TO U.S. CONSULAR AGENT IN APIA CORRECTING RECORD OF ASI EIKENI'S ALLEGATIONS REGARDING SO-CALLED "ABRRUPT" REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR PAYMENT; PAN AM'S SO-CALLED OFFER, OF "FREE TRANSPORTATION" FOR VEHICLES, AND CANCELLATION OF NAVAL ATTACHE'S APIA VISIT. IN EACH INSTANCE EIKENI'S VERSION IS DISTINCTLY AT VARIANCE WITH THE TRUTH AND AS REFTELS A AND B POINT OUT, APPARENTLY MADE TO PROTECT EIKENI IN HIS OWN INEPTNESS.

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7. ENTIRE PACKAGE, INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF LETTERS, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, DIPLOMATIC NOTE BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT SOONEST.

8. COMMENT: PARA FOUR OF UPI STORY (REPORTED REFTEL A) NOT ONLY REASSERTS EIKENI'S CLAIM THAT AUTOS WOULD BE FLOWN FROM HONOLULU TO PAGO PAGO AT NO COST TO GOWS BUT FURTHER THAT A REQUEST TO THAT EFFECT HAD BEEN MADE THROUGH ME. THIS ASSERTION FLIES IN THE FACE OF FACT. WHILE EMBASSY WELLINGTON DID PASS ALONG GOWS REQUEST, REQUEST MADE NO MENTION OF FREE DELIVERY AND I DID SO WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION THAT USG RENDER ASSISTANCE. INDEED, RIGHT UP UNTIL THE VERY END (WELLINGTON 347 DTG 280355Z JAN 77) I ACTIVELY DISCOURAGED GOWS FROM BELIEVING THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD AGREE TO SHIP VEHICLES, "EVEN IF GOWS PREPARED TO PAY COMMERCIAL RATE". THIS REMARK MARKED CULMINATION OF THIS EMBASSY'S REPEATED EFFORTS (SEE REFTEL B) TO MAKE GOWS UNDERSTAND THAT ASSISTANCE COULD NOT BE FREE OF CHARGE. I AM MORE CONVINCED NOW THAN EVER BEFORE THAT ASI EIKENI FULLY UNDERSTOOD ENTIRE PROCESS BUT NEEDED USG ON WHICH TO PIN BLAME FOR \$35,000 FIASCO.

9. WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO BE CAUSE FOR PERPETUATION OF THIS SHORT STORY TO POINT OF ITS BECOMING EXTENDED NOVEL, NEITHER DO I SEE THAT WE MUST INDEFINITELY ENDURE EIKENI'S LIES. THE PUBLIC RECORD NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED. IT IS POSSIBLE DEPARTMENT WILL FIND MY LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER EFI IS SUFFICIENT IN THIS REGARD, BUT IF DEPARTMENT WANTS TO GO PUBLIC WITH COMPLETE, FACTUAL RUNDOWN, IT CERTAINLY HAS MY FULL ENDORSEMENT.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3170660
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTERN SAMOA: QUEEN'S CARS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, WS, (ELIZABETH II)
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Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d7b5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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